342 /Journal for Ethnology/ 39 (1907) pp. 59 ff. has pointed out what constitutes the difference between the above-mentioned composite buildings and the prehistoric pile dwellings.

due to the fact that every part of the building has its own roof. The roofs of the two major sections run parallel to each other and an eave (ye-ta-yauk) is fitted in between. The front part, which opens directly onto the main veranda, contains the livingroom /Figure 1 - Simplest roof. Burmese house. Stronger roof truss./ and visiting room; in the rear are the bedrooms. The kitchen [343] again is detached. At the railing of the veranda, near the livingroom, is usually the stand for the drinking water jugs. Windows are normally only in the front part of the house. At the east wall 353 of the interior of the livingroom is sometimes a very handsomely carved rack (nyaung-ye-o-sin), with a Buddha image, or simply with flower vases in odd /206/ numbers (three or five) which are dedicated to him. They contain fresh leaves of the Nyaung bin (Ficus religiosa), or as a substitute the "Tree of Knowledge," which is sacred to Buddhism, or the hardy, easily obtainable leaves of the aloe plants, etc.

The building material for the rural houses is 342 bamboo. For the main posts and beams (yet-ma) 395 wooden logs are used by anyone who can possibly afford them; otherwise the sturdy canes of the giant bamboo are employed. Strong bamboo poles also furnish the crossbeams (sin) /Figure 2 - Roof covers at the village of Kenghkam, southern Shan State Yawnghwe./ on which the floor at a height of 1 to 1 1/2 meters rests. The main posts, standing in pairs, are joined together at the top by crossbeams; on them, in the center, stands a short beam which serves as a support of the roof ridge. On larger houses an additional beam frame is used and on this stands the support

342 of the roof ridge. Rafters--thin bamboo poles--
335 are placed over this roof structure (Figure 1). Split and flattened bamboo poles are used for floor boards as well as being joined together to serve as doors. The outer walls and partitions consist of frames (zali) with strong bamboo wickerwork (yaing). The outer walls are frequent-
[353] ly decorated with black and white ornaments (Plate IV, 4); more delicate wickerwork is used for the floor covering. Not one single nail can be found in the entire house. The posts and the strong cross beams are mortised with each other; to fasten the roof rafters and the mat walls, tough green ribbons are cut from bamboo and are made pliable by soaking them in water. The doors have no hinges, but turn in sunken in peg extensions on top and bottom of the door cases (7).

[171] 7. The avoidance of nails through fastening with plant fibers (bamboo, rattan) is the rule for the bamboo house all over Burma and Assam. H. Frobenius, ibid., p. 568, points out the same with regard to the central Oceanic architectural area.

342 The houses in the cities are usually built of
824 wood; the famous teak wood which was selected primarily for monasteries and the palaces of the princes has long since become a costly building material. Therefore even the well-to-do people use it only for the main posts; its resinous oil protects it against attacks from termites. For the better housing constructions iron wood (Xylia dolabriformis, Burmese: pyinkado) which is just as durable, is mostly used. For the simplest roofing material the thekké grass (Saccharum cylindricum and Saccharum spontaneum) is preferred in the entire country, with the exception of lower Burma where palm leaf material is popular. The former is a coarse grass related to the sugar cane. Their stalks are tied fringe-